

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00743 051028Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 /067 W
-----019638 051058Z /10

R 050900Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9402
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 743

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PLEASE PASS UDORN ELECTRICALLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, LA, TH
SUBJECT: EXCAPE OF FORMER LAO POLICE GENERAL

REF: BANGKOK 18841

1. FORMER POLICE MAJOR-GENERAL KHAMSAO VILAVOUT, DESCRIBED BY THE BANGKOK POST JULY 3 AS COMMANDER OF THE PL SPECIAL BRANCH AND A DEFECTOR FROM THE LPDR, SERVED UNDER THE FORMER GOVERNMENT AS CHIEF OF THE IMMIGRATION BUREAU OF THE LAO POLICE. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, HE RETIRED PRIOR TO THE CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT AND HAS HAD NO OFFICIAL POSITION SINCE. (THE LPDR DOES NOT USE MILITARY RANKS FOR THE ARMED FORCES OR POLICE.) HE WAS, HOWEVER, ONE OF THE FEW RIGHTIST GENERALS NOT SENT FOR RE-EDUCATION, IN SPITE OF HIS CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE NEW GOVERNMENT. LOCAL SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO HIS AGE AND THE FACT THAT HE RETIRED BEFORE 1975. THE WEALTH GAINED IN THE COURSE OF HIS IMMIGRATION
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00743 051028Z

DUTIES MAY ALSO HAVE HELPED AVOID THE CAMPS.

2. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A DEBRIEFING OF KHAMSAO; BECAUSE OF HIS FORMER CONTACTS HE MAY STILL HAVE SOME USEFUL INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS IN LAOS. HOWEVER, WE DOUBT IF HE WILL BE ABLE TO SHED MUCH LIGHT ON THE MURKY OPERATIONS OF THE HIGHER LEVELS OF THE LPDR.

3. WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE THAI AUTHORITIES ARE BEING INTENTIONALLY MISLEADING IN THEIR CHARACTERIZATION OF KHMLAO AS A COMMUNIST DEFECTOR, BUT OBVIOUSLY THE JULY 4 STORY IN THE POST TELLING OF 300 LAO INFORMERS IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS SUPPORTS THE THEORY PUT FORTH BY SOME LOCAL THAI OFFICIALS THAT REFUGEES CREATE SECURITY PROBLEMS.

4. IN ADDITION TO KHAMLAO'S CASE, WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS OF THE DEFECTION OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BANQUE POUR LE COMMERCE EXTERIEUR LAO, BOUN NHOU THAVONEKHAM AND AN OFFICIAL OF THE NATIONAL BANK, CHANPHENG UPLAVAN. IF THEY SHOW UP IN NONG KHAI THEY MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE LAO ECONOMY.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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